

the New Road, facing the Regent's Park, for the army. Why there should be so great a difference in the estimates appears somewhat strange when the "services of one have been equal to those of the other." Perhaps Mr. W. and Mr. S. (now Sir Robert S.) can enlighten the baron who fought the battle of the country upon the subject, and why they have never been commenced.

INQUIRING.

ASSISTANT SURVEYORS AND CLERKS OF WORKS.

Sir,—Allow me to suggest to your well-informed readers, how valuable it would be to many who are but just commencing the profession, if they would give the result of their experience in answer to the questions contained in your last number, which were put to the candidates for the office of Assistant Surveyor and Clerk-of-the-Works to the Westminster Sewerage. The want of good sound information on these subjects is sufficiently evinced from the fact of only six out of about thirty candidates being thought competent to be allowed to stand.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CONSTANT READER.

REBUILDING PARTY-WALLS.

Sir,—Our Metropolitan Building Act requiring three months' notice to be given before you can interfere with a party-wall which it may be necessary to rebuild, I will thank you or some of your country correspondents to explain how the law is out of the metropolis. Should a party-wall between A and B become so bad that, in consequence of A pulling his house down, the wall must be rebuilt. I want to know what sort of notice, and what time should be specified as sufficient notice, and what power have you to compel him to admit of the wall being so pulled down to allow of the building of a new wall? This is a very important question. Though not brought before the trade that I know of, it is important to builders and surveyors too, who may have work a very few miles from town, and not know how to proceed.

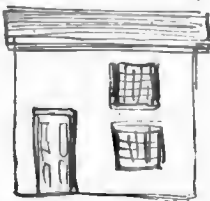
Yours, most obliged,

Shadwell, Feb. 7, 1844.

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[We are not acquainted with any general statute or practice ruling matters connected with party-walls out of the range of the Metropolitan Building Act. We apprehend all such questions, in default of any local statute, must be governed by common law, professional opinion, agreement of the parties interested, and, if necessary, by arbitration. No doubt a general statute conferring directory power in all such cases will ere long pass the Legislature.—Ed.]

Sir,—Can you, or one of your correspondents, oblige me with an economical plan of improving the appearance of my little house, merely a workman's house, with one room in front, up and down stairs? This room I wish to make comfortable (the floor now opening immediately to the street in this country village.) I inclose a drawing of my house.



I wish to have some kind of double door or portico, so as to make the front down-stairs room comfortable as a parlor, sitting-room; and my object is also to improve the appearance of the door and bottom window, both being now very poor and mean.

Hoping to be favored with a hint to assist me, I am, Sir, with sincere wishes for the continued success of your publication, yours respectfully,

A WORKING MAN.

January 20, 1844.

If a portico be recommended for the door, I would like it to be in wrought-iron, as, in this case, could make it myself, but should require assistance as regards the best material for the roof of it.

My correspondents, desiring to make his house comfortable, should erect a ground-plan of it, showing the situations of the chimney and staircase; and should also state the aspect of the front, and if the house be detached;

The late Professor of Architecture in the Royal Academy, since deceased.—Ed.

by which might be seen whether it would be advisable to design for the side of the building a porch with an entrance on the side least pernicious to inclement weather. The material of the walls should be stated, and whether the apertures are arched.—Ed.]

CABINET WORK.

Sir,—Having a chair to make out of old oak for a curious advocate of the early styles, it would greatly oblige me if you or some of your talented correspondents could favour me with a design for an arm-chair—an elbow-chair one in the Tador or Elizabethan style would be preferred. I regret that your valuable publication does not often contain designs for cabinet-work; the want of funds to purchase work on fairly remunerate induces me to make this application; and the seeing you were kind enough to obtain a beautiful design for a "Young Manoe," has induced me to apply to you in the same manner, hoping you will confer the same favour on a constant subscriber to your journal.

Yours respectfully,

A YOUNG CABINET-MAKER.

[Those who cannot afford to purchase Shaw's, and other entire works upon the subject, may obtain separate plates of them for sixpence or a shilling each, of Evans, the printer, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and other dealers, who break up the works for the convenience of such purchasers.—Ed.]

THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Sir,—Being a subscriber and admirer of *The Builder*, I beg leave to suggest that I think it very desirable, and would be very useful to the trade, if you were to insert the *Gazette*, especially (I am sorry to say it) as the builders have frequently appeared of late so prominently in it.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

OLD CARPENTERS.

[We should willingly comply with "Old Carpenter's" suggestion, if on compliance with it would not follow the necessity of assuming, as a newspaper, every copy of our publication.]

THE ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY.

Sir,—I shall feel obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, can inform me in your next number of *The Builder* the principle of the atmospheric railway. Also, at the same time, if you know if there is any person in London engaged in the direction or construction of such works.

Your well-wisher and subscriber, P. R.

Sir,—Being anxious to become acquainted with land-surveying as well as ordinary surveying, I should feel obliged by your mentioning in your notices to correspondents the best work now published on the above subjects.

Your constant subscriber, P. M.

Miscellaneous.

WASTE LANDS.—INCLOSURE ACT.—On the motion of Lord Worsley, a very long return was made in June last "of the true or estimated quantity in statute measure of all common or waste lands not being held in severalty, in every parish or tithing commutation district, so far as the same can be ascertained from the schedules to the agreements or awards, or from the apportionments received by the Tithe Commissioners;" and also "a return of all Acts passed since the year 1800 for the inclosure of common or waste lands in England and Wales not being held in severalty, distinguishing the parishes and counties in which the same were situated, together with the estimated number of Acres passed from 1800 to 1810, from 1810 to 1820, from 1820 to 1830, and from 1830 to 1840." The summary of England shows that in the forty counties the total quantity of land amounts to 6,718,523 acres, of which the quantity of common or waste land is stated to be 1,338,419 acres. In Middlesex alone there are 1,321 acres of waste land. The largest quantity of waste land is in the North Riding of Yorkshire, there being no less than 132,815 acres of common or waste land out of a total of 1,897,592 acres; making a total of waste land in England and Wales of 1,860,232, out of the total of 8,616,115. By the second return it appears that from 1800 to 1810 the number of Inclosure Acts passed was 905; from 1810 to 1820 the number was 141; from 1820 to 1830 the number was 192; and from 1830 to 1840 the number of Inclosure Acts was 125.

THE TAX UPON COALS.—The merchants of the Coal Exchange are getting up a petition to Parliament against the projected duty of 5 per cent, which Government intends imposing upon all sea-borne coal that enters the port of London, for the purpose of enabling them to carry out the proposed metropolitan improvements, and for which a bill is to be presented to the House this session.

THE COAL TRADE, Jan. 27.—Copies of a memorial to Sir Robert Peel agreed upon at a numerous meeting of coal-owners of Northumberland and Durham, held this week, have been circulated in the North. The document (which is of great importance) is signed by Mr. Robert W. Brading, on behalf of the representatives of 103 collieries present at the meeting. The following is a copy of it:—

"That your memorialists believe that an effort will be made to induce her Majesty's Government during the next session of Parliament to propose an additional tax on coals imported into the port of London, in order to defray the expense of certain projected works on the banks of the Thames. That your memorialists contend that such a tax would be partial, unjust, and highly prejudicial. That the mining and shipping interests of the coal districts of the north of England, so far from being in a state to bear the smallest impact without being greatly affected by it, are so depressed that the most serious evils may be apprehended, unless the extension of the coal trade is encouraged by the removal of some oppressive charges with which it is at present clogged, especially the recently imposed export duty. That this depression has already most seriously diminished the fair returns upon the capital embarked by the coal and shipowner, and must, at no distant period, if a remedy is not applied, gradually increase the hardships which it has already inflicted upon the miners and sailors, in depriving them of that fair remuneration which they have a right to expect as a compensation for the labour they undergo, and the contingencies to which they are exposed. That your memorialists, therefore, most earnestly request the immediate and serious attention of her Majesty's Government to this important subject; and that they may be allowed an opportunity of proving that the fears which actuated your memorialists when the export duties were re-imposed have been fully realized, and that a longer continuance in this line of policy affecting the coal trade, must operate destructively to the interests of your memorialists, and the future prosperity of the general export and import trade of this district." The question of the proposed new tax excites great interest, and general condemnation in this locality. It is probable the proposal will be withdrawn; but it is certain that the export duty on coals will be brought before the attention of Parliament almost immediately after its assembling.

PRUSSIAN FORTS.—It is stated in a letter from Berlin, that the Prussian Government intends to enlarge several of the commercial towns of the kingdom, and to substitute for the fortifications which now surround them, detached forts and towers, similar to those of Posen and Cologne. The first towns in which this course is to be adopted are Magdeburgh and Stettin.

FORTS OF ROUEN.—The *Commerce* says:—"Rouen, as well as Paris, is to have its detached forts. The preparatory plans are already far advanced. They comprise three etalades; one on the plateau of Bon Secours, another on Mont Riboudet, and the third on the Havre road, 600 metres from the Rouen gate of octroi."

THE ERECT OF RAILWAYS.—On Monday last, the "Standard" Herod, a French engineer, adjoining the church of St. Peter's, West Cheap, which is one of the oldest lanes in the city of London, having been built in the style of architecture of the 15th century, with balconies in front, was disposed of by auction, for its building materials, when it will be pulled down, and on its site which extends nearly to the Old Change, large Manchester warehouses will be erected. The new man was extensively connected with coal proprietors and wagon carriers down the Great Western road, the traffic of which has been broken up by the establishment of the railways. The house adjoining, No. 5, Friday-street, which is part of the above property, is said to have been in the occupation of Sir Christopher Wren at the time of the erection of St. Paul's. The estate belongs to the Merchant Tailors' Company.

AN OLD PRINTING OFFICE.—The printing office established by Christopher Plantin, about the year 1530, at Antwerp, then a great commercial emporium, has survived to our time in active operation, through the descendants of his daughter, the wife of John Moret, whose name the press has been confined to bear. The Polygot Bible of 1569-1578 is an enduring monument of Plantin's press, of which some of the productions attest the excellence in 1555.